



Grapevine Newsletter

September-October, 2020

A Message from the Co-Presidents

The recent events focusing on the death of George Floyd have given many of us pause to reflect on our communities, our institutions and ourselves. This was not the first time that a black man died at the hands of police. But it is the first time that the protesters have continued to protest throughout the weeks, not just in our country but around the world. People seem to sense that this time real change will happen.



The California AAUW Board issued a statement that “AAUW is committed to fighting for justice and will work collaboratively to give access for all people to the opportunities and resources needed for optimal health and safety. Our organization is a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.” These words are not merely words but have power if we truly believe them.

California AAUW sponsored a panel discussion on diversity and offered ideas to help promote diversity within AAUW. One suggestion, among many, is to collaborate with other groups that have similar goals. We need to broaden our lives to include people who “don’t look like us” in our programs and community activities. We should look at the statistics on housing, education, and health care in our communities and see how we can make changes to improve equity and diversity. Perhaps we can celebrate International Day for Women next March 8, 2021 or explore other opportunities to broaden our outreach to the wider community around us.

As we begin a new year for our branch, let us continue to respect the dignity, rights and humanity for all people. We would love to hear your ideas about what our branch can do during this coming year. Just call or email either one of us.

Marlene Lamb and Sumi Tanabe, Co-Presidents, 2020-2021

Our Branch website is <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca.aauw/net>

Our 2020-2021 Elected Officers

Co-President	Sumi Tanabe (408) 253-6191	atanabe@hotmail.com
Co-President	Marlene Lamb (408) 497-1556	marlenela37@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lynn Sprague (408) 867-9375	lynnspr@gmail.com
Secretary	Mara Otlans (253) 202-3307	marafelz@comcast.net
AAUW Fund VP	Judy Borlase (408) 669-6828	judith@borlase.com
Membership VP	Virginia Turner (408) 866-4234	vturner@sbcglobal.net
Membership Treasurer	Louise Quenon (408) 867-0698	lquenon@comcast.net

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Proposed National Dues Increase

The national AAUW Board of Directors is considering two options to increase individual member dues (currently \$59) to take effect next July 1, 2021. The increase would be between \$3 and \$10, either a single increase or phased in over three years. Like many organizations, AAUW's expenses continue to increase but, in recent years, dues have not increased to keep pace. You may send any comments regarding the dues increase to connect@aauw.org no later than Friday, September 25, 2020. All comments will be reviewed by AAUW staff and the Board of Directors prior to the Board's vote.



Sponsored by San Jose AAUW, **Gifts for Teens** provides a valuable and fun December holiday gift bag to teenagers who may not otherwise have any gift or special attention this time of year. Contact Elaine Benoit at 408-268-9654 or ebenoit99@yahoo.com for more information and ways you can help the project.

Meet Our Named Gift Honorees

Our first Named Gift Honoree is **Doris Agee**. She received her BS in Nursing from the University of Evansville and worked many years as a nurse at the County of Santa Clara, among other places. She has been an AAUW member for over 40 years which she was encouraged to join. Doris has three daughters and six grandchildren ranging from age six to twenty-two years. Over the years, Doris has enjoyed many friendships in AAUW and has been one of the leaders of the Supper Club group.

Our second Named Gift Honoree is **Joanna Yates**. Joanna is a fourth generation Californian. She received her BA in journalism from San Jose State University and was a member of AAUW for about 10 years when she was younger, then rejoined AAUW about ten years ago. She and her former husband have an electronics manufacturing business since the 1960s for which she traveled internationally, and she traveled extensively from the 1990s to 2010. Photography has been her profession and a lifetime hobby; she is presently working on a family history. She has two sons and three grandchildren (one is in a fashion design school in Los Angeles and two in high school). She has been an active leader of Let's Do Lunch and is a member of the Book Review group.



Directory Distribution and Corrections

We have made changes -- in size and in distribution -- to the Directory this year. It will be printed (or printable) on regular 8.5" x 11" paper, rather than the folded version used in the past. Those who receive the *Grapevine* by mail will get their Directory by mail. Those who receive the *Grapevine* electronically (by email) will get their Directory by email. Print it yourself, or just keep it in your computer or other device for reference. It will also be available in the Members Only section of our website. Many thanks to editor Virginia Turner and proofreader Susan Lange.



If you need to make corrections or changes to your information, please contact Louise Quenon, our database manager, at 408-867-0698 or lquenon@comcast.net.

Proposed Branch Budget for 2020-2021

	Proposed Income	<u>2020-2021</u>
1	Branch Dues (90 paid members)	1,800.00
2	Directory Ads (going to new format)	-
3	Miscellaneous Income (donations)	700.00
4	Newsletter print and mail (15)	150.00
5	Total Income	<u>\$2,650.00</u>

	Proposed Expenses	
6	Bank Fees	25.00
7	Board Meeting Room Fee (5 mo. X \$20)	100.00
8	Branch Supplies	50.00
9	CA Secretary of State Filing Fee *	-
10	Convention - State	100.00
11	Directory Mailing - First Class	100.00
12	Directory Printing	250.00
13	General Meeting Refreshments/Beverages/Potluck	100.00
14	Insurance CA AAUW	500.00
15	Installation of New Board	20.00
16	Interbranch Council Dues	30.00
17	Leadership Training	50.00
18	Meeting Facility Rental/Donation	75.00
19	Membership Recruitment/Renewal	150.00
20	Newsletter Postage (<i>Grapevine</i>)	200.00
21	Newsletter Production (<i>Grapevine</i>)	75.00
22	President Expenses	50.00
23	Sunshine Committee Expenses	25.00
24	Treasurer Expenses	20.00
25	Speaker Honorarium	100.00
26	Total Expenses	<u>\$2,020.00</u>

**biennial expense not due this year*

Prepared by Lynn Sprague, Treasurer. The branch is required to approve the budget. You can vote via Survey Monkey on our website <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca.aauw.net/> or phone Lynn Sprague at 408-867-9375.

Strong Start for Education

Since 2016 Santa Clara County branches of AAUW have advocated for the efforts of the county Office of Education's Early Childhood Care and Education project, **Strong Start**. The project promotes quality programs for all pre-school age children, especially those in underserved communities. Learn more on the Strong Start website, <http://strongstartsantaclara.org/>.

News from AAUW Fund

We are grateful for your continued support of the AAUW Fund. Your donations have helped support two **Project Grants in California**. One is for a six-month immersion course in “How Politics Really Works” for the Carlsbad-Oceanside High School district, which will introduce young women to careers in public service. The second is a grant to Mariposa’s “Tech-Connect: Multi-Media Messages” which encourages high school students to develop and present multi-media productions based on Speech Trek themes. The new AAUW Fund chair for California, Donna Lilly, is a past-president of AAUW California from the Del Mar-Leucadia branch.



Like many branch activities this year, we need to redesign our **Authors’ Luncheons**. We love putting them on; they are not only popular with our members, but also with our authors who really enjoy speaking to us. This year Covid-19 got in the way. Financial considerations may also lead us to change the format of our author events – perhaps morning socials with authors or afternoon tea. You will be hearing from **Arlene Pickett**, our new event chair, about such occasions.

Judy Borlase, AAUW Fund VP

In Memoriam

Gail Pedersen lived in northwest Montana until second grade when her family moved to California. She attended West Valley College and San Jose State University where she earned a BS in Interior Design. She worked as a facilities and design consultant for several years but found that she needed computer skills so returned part-time to WVC where she earned a number of degrees and certificates in digital media and computer applications. Along with various positions in high tech, she continued to work at WVC as a part-time teacher until 2005.

Gail joined Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW in 2008 and became the *Grapevine* editor. Over the years her role expanded to include the directory, website design, recruitment materials, pamphlets and other branch materials. She was also active in the Committee on Homeless Women and Children. She is survived by her sisters Ann and Barbara.

Barbara Hawkes (1928-2020) graduated from San Jose State when she was 49 and promptly joined AAUW. She was a passionate supporter of women’s rights, a smart, witty, independent woman who could be counted on to speak her mind and stand up for herself. She is survived by her sons Chris and Sam and two grandsons.

September, 2020

- 1 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Sheltering in place until further notice. Contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805.
- 8 Tuesday Committee on Homeless Women and Children.** Sheltering in place until further notice. Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805, for information.
- 10 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks – Local Hike.** Meets promptly, **9:00 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking at Northside lot off Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd, behind Starbucks and Petco. Contact Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508, or Jane Bishop, 408-656-7796.
***Please note:** Group is observing Covid-19 rules, wearing masks, distancing, not carpooling, but getting exercise and catching up on gossip. Seeking new hikers!*
- 14 Monday Board Meeting.** (Date changed because of Labor Day.) Meets **10:00 am via Zoom.** Please contact Lynn Sprague, 408-867-9375 or lynnspr@gmail.com for Zoom information. **All members are welcome!**
- 16 Wednesday Let's Do Lunch.** Sheltering in place until further notice. Please contact Chair, Joanna Yates, 408-395-2950, for more information.
- 18 Friday AM Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 am via Zoom.** Discuss a book, good or bad, with others in the group. Contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read!**
- 22 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Sheltering in place until further notice. Contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805.
- 24 Thursday Back by Noon Hike.** Meets promptly, **9 AM, Los Gatos,** Northside lot, free limited parking off Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd, behind Starbucks and Petco. Contact Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508 or Jane Bishop 408-356-7796. *Group is observing Covid-19 rules. Seeking New Hikers!*
- 28 Tuesday Film Buffs.** Sheltering in place till further notice. Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-356-8441 for information.



Spread a Little Sunshine

Is there someone in our branch who could use a little encouragement or sympathy or congratulations right now? Sunshine Chair Jane Parks-McKay would be happy to send a message from the branch; you can call Jane at 831-475-0588 or email her at janerparksmckay@gmail.com.

October, 2020



- 2 Friday** **Armchair Adventure Travels – Will Resume** via **Zoom** through the auspices of The Terraces, Los Gatos. Links to the Zoom presentations will be emailed to members on the **Travel List** about a week before the program. Please contact JoAn Lambert, 408-867-6237, for more information. The opening presentation will be **My Indochina Trip** presented by **Ed Chang**. His memorable trip was through Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, each one with its own distinctive culture.
- 5 Monday** **Board Meeting.** Meets **10:00 am via Zoom**. Contact Lynn Sprague, 408-867-9375 or lynnspr@gmail.com for Zoom information. **All members are welcome!**
- 6 Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Sheltering in place until further notice. Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805, for information.
- 8 Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – Local Hike.** Meets promptly, **9 AM, Saratoga**. Argonaut shopping center, Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd., opposite CVS Pharmacy. Contact Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508, or Jane Bishop, 408-656-7796.
Please note: group is observing Covid-19 rules, wearing masks, not carpooling, but getting exercise and catching up on gossip, at distance. Seeking new hikers!
- 13 Tuesday** **Committee on Homeless Women and Children.** Sheltering in place until further notice. Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805, for more information.
- 15 Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks -Trail Clean-up.** Meets promptly, **9 AM, Los Gatos**, Free limited parking at Northside lot off Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd, behind Starbucks and Petco. Contact Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508 or Jane Bishop 408-356-7796. *Group is following Covid-19 rules. Seeking New Hikers!*
- 16 Friday** **AM Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 am via Zoom**. Discuss a book, good or bad, with others in the group. Contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read!**
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- 27 Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Sheltering in place until further notice. Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805.
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September –
October, 2020

Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch
American Association of University Women
14415 Evans Lane
Saratoga, CA 95070

Grapevine Committee: Virginia Turner, interim editor; Julie Stevens, calendar; Ann Griffin, proofreader. Deadline for November-December issue is **October 17, 2020**. Email materials to vturner@sbcglobal.net. Branch website: <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca-aauw.net>

Help Get Out the Vote

A successful democracy depends on the electorate participating at the polls! VOTING has never been as crucial as it will be this November, during unprecedented, uncertain and precarious times here in the US. An encouraging letter has proven successful in increasing voter turnout.

Member Carol Fitting suggests signing up at web site www.votefwd.org to send letters to traditionally under-served registered voters, in eight key states, who are unlikely to move soon and unlikely to vote; this known from long years of record keeping. Senders are unidentifiable; a template for non-partisan letters is provided, with the sender filling in a short personal message. First class postage, paper, envelopes and time are all that's required of volunteers. It's a simple way to help! The web site is easy to use and self-explanatory. For questions or comments, you can reach Carol Fitting at 408-691-6967 or cjfitting78@gmail.com.